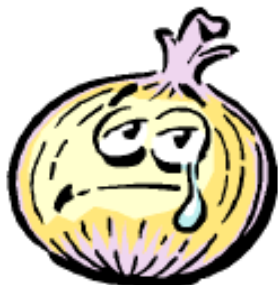


HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 7 Number 5

May 2002



"WE'LL MISS YOU"

EDITORIAL

As I enter my last week at EPA, I must confess that I have heard that expression often over the last month. It occurs to me that the only person who could possibly hear that phrase with unalloyed -- albeit, momentary -- joy might be the blindfolded prisoner into whose ear the captain of the firing squad whispers, "We'll miss you." And even then, the prisoner must wonder what the captain _really_ meant as he hears him walk away and begin the inevitable "Ready, aim,...!"

I take solace in the thought that I have been privileged to be at the SAB during a particularly eventful period of its history. During the period between 1988 and 2002 the SAB;

- a. Has served four notable EPA Administrators: Lee Thomas, William Reilly, Carol Browner, and Christine Todd Whitman,
- b. Been led by six great Executive Committee Chairs: Dr. Norton Nelson, Dr. Raymond Loehr, Dr. Joan Daisey, Dr. Genevieve Matanoski, Dr. Morton Lippmann, and Dr. William Glaze,
- c. Has increased the breadth of its concerns (i.e., the number of its committees) and the depth of its expertise (i.e., the number of members) by 20%,
- d. Has added "new products" to its repertoire; i.e., Consultation, Advisory, Commentary, Workshops, and Seminars, in addition to its venerable Reports,
- e. Conducted over 500 public FACA meetings, resulting in over 120 communications of advice that have been formally, publicly, figuratively whispered into the Administrator's ear, and
- f. Caught "the technological wave" so that more than half of last year's public meetings were conducted by conference call, which were more timely, as well as more accessible to a wider public audience.

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To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, the world will little note what I say here, but it cannot forget what they -- the SAB and the Staff (see below) -- did here. From the high-impact, *de novo* projects like Reducing Risk to the high-octane reviews *flambe* like the Dioxin Reassessment; from well-received testimony before Congress to helpful remonstrations from the General Accounting Office -- the SAB Members and Consultants and the SAB staff have demonstrated themselves to be faithful, selfless, and fearless in trying to do the right thing right, in order to put the shoulder of scientific rigor to the Agency's difficult task of protecting public health and environment.

Having have been fortunate to participate in these event, up-close and personal, I can only hope that, as Thurgood Marshall intoned when he retired from the US Supreme Court, I will be remembered as one who did the best he could with what he had.

I look forward with great expectation and anticipation to a growing, glowing future of the SAB. With dedicated Members led by the creative and visionary likes of Dr. Glaze and a dedicated Staff led by the energetic and skilled likes of Dr. Vanessa Vu, that future should be bright indeed.

I close with a benediction found chiseled into lintel above the entrance to the Risk Assessors Guild No. 23 in ancient Rome: "God bless you as you shine the limited light of salient science on the persistent and often political problems that affect us all. May you maintain your perspective and good humor, and may all of your risks be less than 10-6."

Donald G. Barnes, PhD
SAB Staff Director

SAB STAFF (1988-2002)

1. Lutithia Barbee
2. Don Barnes
3. Anne Barton
4. Ed Bender
5. Cheryl Bentley
6. Randy Bond
7. LaShae Cardenas
8. Dorothy Clark
9. Rick Cothren
10. Craig Council
11. Janice Cuevas
12. Frances Dolby
13. Annette Duncan
14. Roslyn Edson
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16. Robert Flaak
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21. Betty Fortune
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26. Ann Holbrow
27. Jason Holstein
28. Jason Hotten
29. Sheilesa Jameson
30. Marcy Jolly
31. Germaine Kargo
32. Jack Kooyoomjain
33. Karen Martin
34. Melanie Medina-Metzger
35. Marie Miller
36. Tom Miller
37. Norman Neidergang
38. Angela Nugent
39. Carolyn Osborne
40. Derrick Pope
41. Kalil Posey

42. Diana Pozun
43. Vickie Richardson
44. Sam Rondberg
45. Stephanie Sanzone
46. Darlene Sewell
47. Julie Silver
48. Barbara Spencer-Pulliam

49. Rasheed Tahir
50. Fred Talcott
51. Pat Thomas
52. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson
53. Connie Valentine
54. Kathleen White
55. Mary Winston

TENTATIVE SAB MEETING CALENDAR FOR MAY & JUNE

Several of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) meetings noted below have been announced in the Federal Register (FR), together with additional background information. Readers can automatically receive e-mailed copies of FR Notices by subscribing to the SAB Listserver; see Section Updates below.

If a series of meetings is anticipated, the number of the meeting in the series is indicated in parentheses; e.g., "(#2)".

MAY



8F

Committee:
Topic(s):
Location:
Chair:
DFO:
Email:

Executive Committee (EC)
Review Meeting
Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
Dr. William Glaze, University of North Carolina
Mr. A. Robert Flaak
flaak.robert@epa.gov

9F

Committee: Executive Committee (EC) Subcommittee
Topic(s): Benefits, Costs and Impacts of RCRA Subtitle C & Ust Programs
Location: Ariel Rios Building, Room 6013, Teleconference
Chair: Dr. A. Myrick Freeman, Bowdoin College
DFO: Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian
Email: kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov

20-21

Committee: Executive Committee (EC) Subcommittee
Topic(s): Benefits, Costs and Impacts of RCRA Subtitle C & Ust Programs
Location: EPA East Building, Room 1117
Chair: Dr. A. Myrick Freeman, Bowdoin College
DFO: Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian
Email: kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov

JUNE



13

Committee: Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC)
Topic(s): Affordability and OW Trading Policy
Location: Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Alexandria, VA
Chair: Dr. Robert Stavins, Harvard University
DFO: Mr. Thomas Miller
Email: miller.tom@epa.gov

18F

Committee: Executive Committee (EC) Subcommittee
Topic(s): Benefits, Costs and Impacts of RCRA Subtitle C & Ust Programs
Location: TBD, Teleconference
Chair: Dr. A. Myrick Freeman, Bowdoin College
DFO: Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian
Email: kooyoomjian.jack@epa.gov

18-19

Committee: Environmental Health Committee (EHC)
Topic(s): Trichloroethylene Health Risk Assessment
Location: TBD
Chair: *Dr. Henry Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health*

DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

TBA

Committee: Executive Committee Subcommittee
Topic(s): PBT/Evaluation of Metals & Metal Compounds
Location: TBD
Chair: TBD
DFO: *Ms. Stephanie Sanzone*
Email: sanzone.stephanie@epa.gov

To View a Tentative 6 Month Calendar Click Here
Or Go to the SAB website www.epa.gov/sab/mtgcal.htm

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As the draft SAB report, *A Framework for Assessing and Reporting on Ecological Condition*, hits the street (actually the world wide web!), SAB representatives have been invited to spread the word about the Framework in several venues. Dr. Terry Young, EPEC Chair, will participate in a special session on the interface between ecology and policy at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in August in Tucson, Arizona. This forum will give Dr. Young an opportunity to reflect on the SAB experience in providing scientific advice that is

relevant to policy-making, as well as to describe the Framework and how it can be used to organize ecological information for decision-makers. Dr. Young also has been asked to serve on a panel of experts to provide feedback to the Agency on the technical work that will underlie the *State of the Environment* report, to be released by EPA in fall of 2002. The proposed format for the *State of the Environment* report calls for a section on the condition of the Nation's ecological systems, and Dr. Young has briefed a number of Agency managers and staff on how the SAB Framework might guide that endeavor. In addition, Dr. Virginia Dale of EPEC will be the keynote speaker at an upcoming EPA Regions/ORD workshop on Critical Ecosystems, to be held in May at the Keystone Conference Center. Dr. Dale will

describe the SAB Framework, and suggest ways that it might serve as a guide for regional ecological assessments.

(Note: The draft SAB report can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/ecoframework.pdf>. A summary of the report is posted at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/ecobrochure3.pdf>)

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN APRIL



On April 8, the Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) Review Panel held a public conference call to discuss the charge and adequacy of the review materials provided to the Panel, to clarify questions and issues relating to the charge, to discuss specific charge assignments and clarify specific points of interest raised by the MARLAP Review Panelists in preparation for the review meeting of April 23-25, 2002.

On April 23-25, the Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) Review Panel met at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC to begin a review of the MARLAP document. This involved engaging in dialogue with appropriate officials from the seven participating agencies, departments and commissions and two pilot states responsible for preparation and utilization of the MARLAP Manual. The Panel began to prepare responses to the charge

questions, received public comments, conducted break-out sessions on each charge question, and prepared draft materials as appropriate. A public conference call is planned for June 27th, as well as a closure meeting on July 30, 31 and August 1, 2002.

STATUS OF FORMATION OF SAB PANELS

The Board has developed a revised Panel Formation Process for the recruitment of *ad-hoc* review panels. The current status of *ad hoc* panels under going this process is summarized here. For the latest detailed information, please visit our website (www.epa.gov/sab) or contact the lead SAB Staff contact identified below.

The SAB plans to hold a public meeting of the US EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Trichloroethylene Health Risk Assessment: Synthesis and Characterization Review Panel (TCE Review Panel) on June 18-19, 2002. There will be an announcement of the public meeting, in the Federal Register, as required by regulation.

In forming this panel, the Board has been following the process for panel formation described in "Draft Overview of Panel Formation Process at the Science Advisory Board.." This draft Overview is included in the Draft Commentary " EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Panel Formation Process: Immediate Steps to Improve Policies and Procedures: An SAB

Commentary (April 17, 2002 Draft) on the web at
<http://www.epa.gov/science1/ecmayagendaitems.htm>.

Following the panel formation process, a "widecast" listing of over 75 names was identified. Working with the Chair of the panel, SAB staff has narrowed the number of candidates to a "Short List" of 20 names from which roughly 12 scientists will be selected for the final panel. The names of "Short List" candidates will appear on the SAB website early in May for a ten-business-day comment period. For information about TCE panel, please contact Dr. Angela Nugent (nugent.angela@epa.gov).

SAB REPORTS IN PROGRESS



a PROJECTS TO BE REVIEWED AT THE MAY 8 EC TELECONFERENCE MEETING

EPEC

- 1) A Framework for Reporting on Ecological Condition: An SAB Report
- 2) Southeastern Ecological Framework: An SAB Review

EEC

- 3) Surface Impoundments Study

EC Subcommittee

- 4) Commentary on PPS
- 5) PM Centers Review

b PROJECTS DUE FOR A LATER EC MEETINGS

EEC

- 1) Risk Reduction Options Report

DWC

- 2) Long Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule Proposal and Stage II Disinfection/Disinfectant By-Product (DBP) Rule Proposal

RAC

- 3) MARLAP Report

c PROJECTS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE EC APPROVAL (CASAC & COUNCIL)

CASAC

- 1) Review of the Agency's draft Proposed Methodology for Particulate Matter Risk Analyses for Selected Urban Areas: A CASAC Advisory

d PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED EC APPROVAL AND AWAIT COMPLETION

There are none at this time.

COMPUTER NEWS



(1) SAB Website is within the EPA Home Page. You are invited to visit the SAB Website at URL: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>

The site offers such features as:

- (a) Full-text reports for FY1994-FY2002
- (b) Background information about the structure, function, and membership of the SAB
- (c) A projected six-month calendar of SAB meetings
- (d) Recent issues of HAPPENINGS
- (e) Draft/final agendas of upcoming meetings and draft/final minutes of past meetings.

(2) SAB Listserver - By subscribing to the free SAB Listserver, you will automatically receive copies of all Federal Register notices announcing SAB meetings, together with brief descriptions of the topics to be covered at the meetings. These notices will be e-mailed to you within 24-hours of their publication in the Federal Register.

To subscribe, simply send the following message, inserting your names,

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3) Obtaining copies of SAB reports:

Single hard copies of SAB reports are available for distribution by contacting, Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson

Phone: (202) 564-4543

Email: tillery.priscilla@epa.gov

or

by faxing your request to
(202) 501-0256.

MEMBER/CONSULTANT/ STAFF NEWS

Staff



The Health Council of the Netherlands provides science advice to their government on health and environmental issues.

This year the Health Council celebrates its 100th anniversary. In honor of this occasion it has commissioned a study of its impact. Ten focus groups are considering this question.

SAB staff member Kathleen White, DFO for the Environmental Engineering Committee, served on one of these focus groups in the Netherlands last month along with representatives from Spain, the United Kingdom, and the World Health Organizations. She also met with staff from the Health Council to discuss operational and organizational issues of mutual interests. The Health Council has survived reductions in advisory groups because of its efficiency. With about 200 members and a staff of sixty, it does about as many reports in a year as the SAB does with a staff of eighteen, a hundred members and many consultants.

This suggests that the SAB is an even more efficient operation.

She returned to the SAB prouder than ever to serve in an organization that does its work publicly; grateful that the SAB runs its meetings and writes its report in her native language; and wishing that the SAB and its staff could enjoy the same amenities of work space, support, and easy access to comfortable conference rooms as their Dutch counterparts.



Vickie Richardson received a Special Achievement Award from Ray Spears, the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Administrator's Office (AO), for her work on diversity issues as the Black Employment Program Manager for AO.

The following staff members were recognized for their special contributions to the OSAB at an awards presentation in April.

Tom Miller, DFO for the Environmental Economics Advisory Committee, received an award for the first DFO to successfully utilize the new innovative computer system for formation of a SAB Panel.

Angela Nugent and Kathleen White, both received awards for: (1) Working with Agency contractors, and WordPerfect and Microsoft professionals to explore the reasons behind years of frustration

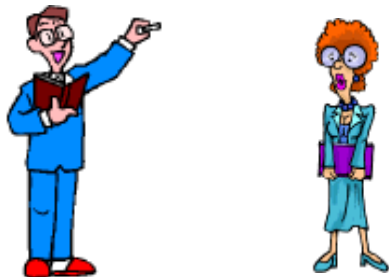
of incompatible matches among various systems that resulted in the SAB members and staff ability to communicate clearly and efficiently; and (2) Through innovations introduced by Dr. Nugent, in entrepreneurial contacts with the Agency's computer people and technical resources in the Office of Research and Development, Ms. White conducted the SAB's first Internet-mediated meeting-at-a-distance to discuss and edit an on-line report.

Diana Pozun, and Mary Winston, both received a Superior Award for their cooperative and self-motivated spirit to insure the smooth operations of the SAB due to the loss of three of the four Management Assistants.

Stephanie Sanzone received a Peer Nomination Award for her creation of a well designed and vibrant color cover depicting the SAB Annual Report's theme Expanding Expertise and Experience.

Pat Thomas received an award for her knowledge of the SAB Lotus Notes People Database to work with contractors to develop "a view" in the Database that can be used electronically to construct reports to the Administrator that list the SAB expiring members and the candidates for their replacement.

BON MOT



In preparing for our seven-month stint of teaching English in China, my wife and I have developed a more Western approach to speaking Chinese; e.g.,

English	Chinese(Read It Out Loud)
1) That's not right.....	Sum Ting Wong
2) Are you harboring a fugitive?.....	Hu Yu Hai Ding?
3) Small Horse.....	Tai Ni Po Ni
4) Staying out of sight.....	Lei Ying Lo
5) Good-bye.....	Ai Go Nao